

Friendship Force of Knoxville

Board Meeting

Jan. 11, 2022

Present: Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Mike McDonough, Leslie Badaines, Janis Robinson, Marsha Mitchell and Ray Simko.

President's Report: President Jayne Raparelli reported that we ended the year well with 26 people attending the Dec. 11 Holiday and 40th Anniversary Party, and we are starting this year strong with a good Board of Directors and committees. She welcomed new Board members Mike McDonough and Marshal Mitchell.

Jayne indicated we will continue to hold Board meetings via Zoom, and she will continue to monitor the future availability of renting a room at TVUUC for monthly general membership events.

Secretary's Report: Members **APPROVED** the Minutes of the Nov. 9, 2021 Board meeting, Minutes of the Nov. 16 ,21021 Annual Meeting, and Amended Minutes of the Dec. 11, 2021 General Membership Event provided by Secretary Barbara Elder.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce Robinson reported for the month of December there were \$765 of receipts from member dues and no expenses in the Operating Account. He reported for the month of December there were no receipts, and there were expenses of \$190.68 for the Holiday/Anniversary Party in the Exchange (Journey) Account.

Bruce also reported he will be sending in money for FFK membership dues to FFI on January 12.

Vice President Report: Vice President Betsy Tonkin reviewed the list of members who have yet to pay their 2022 dues. Different Board members agreed to contact them. She also reviewed some of the information from member interest surveys. Many members indicated an interest in home and day hosts. Betsy will send the spreadsheet to all Board members.

Journey Committee Report: Host Coordinator Mike McDonough reported that 12 Ambassadors (2 couples and 8 single women) from the Greater Des Moines club will be coming to Knoxville April 20-25. The Board **APPROVED** a proposed Ambassador Fee of \$160 and **APPROVED** the April 20 Welcome Dinner to be the program for April instead of the April 26 meeting.

Journey Coordinator Leslie Badaines reported dates for the Lower Columbia Outbound Journey are being negotiated. Ambassador Coordinator Barbara Elder has been in contact with the club.

Vice President Betsy Tonkin is negotiating a date for the Open World Uzbekistan visit to Knoxville.

Leslie reported that the Inbound St. Louis Journey date has not yet been set. Phyllis Driver is the Host Coordinator.

Leslie reported the Journey Committee recommends the purchase of tote bags with the FFK logo and/or Sunsphere as gifts for Inbound Clubs and Open World participants (50 bags at a cost not to exceed \$600). This recommendation was **APPROVED** by the Board. Leslie, Betsy and Janis Robinson will work on developing the design and getting a vendor.

The Journey Committee suggested having day trips to other nearby clubs. The Board agreed this was a good idea and plans to discuss further at the next Board meeting. Western North Carolina (Asheville) was mentioned as a possible club.

Leslie reported that the 2023 FFI request form for inbound journeys has been submitted (one inbound international and one inbound domestic.) We should receive the list of clubs for outbound journeys for 2023 in early February.

Betsy Tonkin discussed the FFI's coordination with the State Department funded ALEX (American Leadership Experience) Program. This program will provide FFI clubs \$9,350 to cover all expenses and overhead to host for one week 10-12 teenagers (17-19 years old) and a group leader from one of a number of foreign countries approved by the State Department. Each of these students had been vetted and approved for a 10-month scholarship in the US which was deferred or cancelled due to the pandemic. The ALEX program was created as short-time option during 2022 to provide those students with an opportunity to spend two weeks in the US, one in D.C. in a group of 50-60 and a second week being home-

hosted in a community organization and there provided with a cultural educational program. FFI and the State Department will permit a local FF club to jointly host these students with another organization. Betsy is attempting to contact the local Children's International Summer Village chapter to see if it would be interested in working on this hosting project and will also reach out to a local Rotary Club. The Board agreed to present the ALEX program to the general membership in February to see if there is any interest.

Program Report: Program Committee Chair Marsha Mitchell reported the January program will be a presentation by the ambassadors who went to San Antonio, the February program will be about their trip to Egypt by FFK members Susana Navarro-Valenti and Susan Dakak. The March program will be a presentation by worldwide travelers, Marsha's sister and brother-in law. The country/city to be determined. The April program will be the Welcome Dinner for Des Moines. The May program may be related to recruiting new members, and recruiting ambassadors for the Outbound Australia journey.

Communications Committee Report: Communications Committee Chair Janis Robinson reported the deadline for Newsletter articles is Friday, Jan. 14. A review copy will go out on the 15th and the Newsletter should be sent on the 16th. Newsletter articles are always due the Friday after the monthly Board meeting.

Webmaster Report: Webmaster Ray Simko reported that our webpage is up to date.

Adjourn: President Jayne Raparelli thanked all attendees for participating in the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonough

Secretary